

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Pedro de Luna himself, the pious and charitable Cardinal of Aragon, had become one of the "incarnate demons." The prior-general of the Carthusians, Guillaume Rainaud, was preparing to lead his flock into the Clementine fold, and Catherine's appeal to him, written in her name by Stefano Maconi, passed unheeded.¹ She was doubtless to be spared the knowledge that a young Dominican, born three years after herself and just ordained priest by the hands of Pedro de Luna, of life as holy and of eloquence only less fervid than her own, destined to be raised to the altars of the Church as St. Vincent Ferrer, was throwing himself heart and soul into the conflict on behalf of Clement, and by his word and pen was soon to draw Spain from her attitude of neutrality to recognize the Pope of Avignon.² But she already saw the shining lights of the order passing into the enemy's camp ; her zealous and devout master-general, Fra Elias of Toulouse, accepted Clement as Pope ; the eloquence of the master of the Sacred Palace, Fra Niccolo da San Saturnine, had been employed on behalf of the cardinals at Anagni. The time has come, she writes to Suora Daniella of Orvieto, to take the food of souls, by offering up humble and continual prayers with impassioned desire to God, at the table of the Cross. " It is the time for this at all times ; but neither thou nor any one else ever saw another time of greater necessity. Bethink thee, daughter mine, with sorrow and bitterness, of the darkness that has come into Holy Church. Human aid seems to be failing us; it befits thee and the other servants of God to invoke His aid. Look to it not to be negligent; it is time to watch and not to sleep. Thou knowest well that, if the guards and others of the city slept when the enemy were at the gates, there is no doubt that they would lose it. We are surrounded by many enemies ; for thou knowest that the world and our own frailty

¹ Cf. Bartholomaeus Senensis, *op. cit.*, Lib. III. cap. 2. This letter, now lost, is not to be confused with Letter 55 (53), written to Dom Guillaume at an earlier date.

² His treatise, *De Moderno Eccltsiae Schismate*, was dedicated to the King of Aragon in 1380.